

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 03772 301018Z

21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SR-02

ORM-01 AID-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /067 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4349

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3772

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PORG SREF VS UN

SUBJ: FURTHER GVN MESSAGE TO WALDHEIM ON REFUGEE CRISIS

REF: SAIGON 3753

1. MFA OFFICIAL CALLED IN EMBOFF LATE MORNING MARCH 30 AND SAID FOLLOWING MESSAGE HAD JUST BEEN SENT GVN UN OBSERVER: BEGIN TEXT REQUEST YOU CALL ON SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM AGAIN TO MAKE CLEAR THAT GRVN WITH ASSISTANCE OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IS PREPARED TO CONTINUE TAKING CARE OF REFUGEES IN DANANG AND EVACUATING THEM UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES RPT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. PLEASE EARNESTLY REQUEST UN SECRETARY GENERAL TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE THAT HUMANITARIAN UNDERTAKING. THIS IS ABSOLUTE PRIORITY BUSINESS, SO PLEASE CARRY OUT ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS AT ONCE AND REPORT. END TEXT

2. MFA OFFICIAL, ON BEHALF OF FOREIGN MINISTER BAC, ASKED THAT USUN ALSO APPROACH WALDHEIM ALONG LINES THIS MESSAGE TO CONVEY TO HIM AND TO EMPHASIZE THE WILLINGNESS OF THE GVN TO CONTINUE ASSISTING AND EVACUATING PEOPLE IN DANANG UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. OFFICIAL EXPLAINED THAT ON ARRIVING IN OFFICE THIS MORNING MINISTER HAD LEARNED SITUATION IN DANANG WAS WORSE THAN HE HAD THOUGHT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 03772 301018Z

THE PREVIOUS DAY, AND THAT CONSEQUENTLY HE HAD SENT THIS FOLLOW-

UP MESSAGE TO MAKE CLEAR THAT GVN WOULD BE WILLING TO CONTINUE ITS HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS IN DANANG EVEN IF THE CITY WERE TO BE TAKEN BY THE OTHER SIDE.

3. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER ENORMOUS OPPORTUNITIES OPENED BY THIS GVN INITIATIVE. AS WE RECALL THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN ON QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS EXPRESSED IN RECENT MONTHS. ONE OF THE MOST BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS IS THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT (UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ARTICLE 13). THIS RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT IS ESPECIALLY PRECIOUS WHEN THE MOVEMENT IS AN EXPRESSION OF SUCH OBVIOUSLY SINCERE AND DEEPLY HELD HORROR AT PROSPECT OF LIVING UNDER NORTH VIETNAMESE DOMINATION. WE ASSUME SUCH CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS IS TRULY UNIVERSAL AND NOT SELECTIVE, AND THAT FREEDOM OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE TO CHOOSE WHERE THEY WISH TO LIVE IS JUST AS IMPORTANT, AS MATTER OF UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLE, AS WE HAVE MADE MATTER OF FREEDOM OF SOVIET JEWS TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL. SIMILARLY, THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL, AS WE RECALL, HAS GONE ON RECORD WITH SEVERAL RINGING STATEMENTS ON "HUMAN RIGHTS". WE ASSUME, ALSO, HIS CONCERN IS UNIVERSAL AND NOT SELECTIVE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT WE PRESS THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL TO ISSUE STATEMENT THAT HE ASSUMES ALL PARTIES CONCERNED WILL REFRAIN FROM INTERFERING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN EFFORT NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN BY SEVERAL NATIONS TO ASSIST THESE REFUGEES TO EMBARK FOR A DESTINATION OF THEIR OWN CHOOSING.
MARTIN

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Message Attributes

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